

**Health and Human Services and Appropriations Committees Briefing
April 11, 2019**

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Good afternoon Chairperson Howard, Chairperson Stinner, and members of the Health and Human Services and Appropriations Committees. Thank you for the invitation to provide more information about the Heritage Health Adult Program. Chairperson Howard, thank you for meeting with Bryson and I on Friday, April 5, 2019. I appreciate that you had an agenda and questions about Medicaid expansion ready for us. On Friday afternoon, I also received your letter, Chairman Stinner, with questions from the Appropriations Committee. That same afternoon, I met with my team to discuss the questions from both committees.

Implementation of Medicaid expansion is important to the Department and we are committed to making sure it goes smoothly. We are here to support Nebraskans in their path to wellness. With that in mind, my team and I are thankful for the opportunity to present to you again. We have organized our presentation to share our Medicaid expansion plan going forward in a more straightforward manner.

The information is organized into four areas:

1. Benefits
2. Administration
3. Community Engagement
4. Finance and cost allocation

Throughout today's presentation, my team will attempt to answer all of the questions you provided us. I want to reiterate something we have previously stated: the documents submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services on April 1, 2019, began discussions with the federal government about Medicaid expansion in Nebraska. Throughout the coming months, we will be in negotiations with CMS regarding our plan. In fact, my team has already begun conversation with our partners at CMS with a call last Friday, April 5, 2019. I am asking you to allow us to remain flexible and agile as we move forward and receive feedback from CMS.

Dr. Van Patton will be sharing the technical aspects of Medicaid expansion in a moment, but I'd like to share with you an example scenario of someone we might be serving under the Heritage Health Adult Program.

Imagine Jennifer. Jennifer might be the server who waits on you at dinner tonight; she might have been the person at the window when you drove through the coffee shop on your way

here; or, she might be a caretaker for a family member. She is an adult who is in the new expansion population, meaning she's able-bodied, between the ages of 19 and 64, and has an income of approximately \$16,000 per year or less. Jennifer is not pregnant and has no dependent children.

When Jennifer enrolls in the Heritage Health Adult Program, she'll be enrolled in Basic coverage. In 6 months she can move to Prime coverage if she engages in care and case management and makes an appointment with a primary care provider. In her second year of eligibility, if Jennifer wants to continue with Prime coverage, she'll need to participate in community engagement requirements, which include working or engaging in job-seeking activities, caring for a relative, attending a post-secondary school or apprenticeship, or volunteering for a public charity for at least 80 hours per month.

If she chooses not to, Jennifer will return to Basic coverage for the next six months until her next eligibility check-in, at which time verification of her residency and income will occur. As long as Jennifer continues to meet the eligibility requirements, she will always have Basic coverage in the Heritage Health Adult Program.

Again, Jennifer could be anyone you know. Jennifer represents any number of people I've met since coming to Nebraska. Each of you have many people like Jennifer in your district.

At the conclusion of my remarks, I will be distributing to each of you a binder of information that will further clarify the design and implementation of Medicaid expansion. In the binder, you will find planning and reference documents that have guided us throughout this process.

Dr. Van Patton will be presenting on the technical aspects of expansion. When he is finished, Jeremy Brunssen, Medicaid Deputy Director of Finance and Program Integrity, will address the specific questions from the Health and Human Services Committee and Appropriations Committee around finance and cost allocation. We have provided a PowerPoint for your review in the front of your binder so that you can follow along with their presentations.

Thank you again. We are committed to a successful implementation of the Heritage Health Adult Program to serve our fellow Nebraskans. With that, I will now turn it over to Dr. Van Patton.

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